



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 7.10 p.m.**

**22 July 2009**

Present: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Morrey (Vice-Chair), Blakeway, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton (to item 6) and Waters

Apologies: Councillors Arthur (other Council business) and Sands

Also present: Councillors S Little (for item 6), Lubbock (to item \*10), Wright (to item 7) and Stephenson

### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 8 July 2009.

### 2. CORPORATE ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

The Director of Transformation presented the report and together with the Chief Executive answered questions. Members were advised that the new Corporate Plan would be completed by the end of October 2009 in order to take account of the review of the Council's priorities.

During discussion, Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, pointed out that the Place Survey would inform the Corporate Plan and help prioritise where service cuts could be made.

The Chair suggested that there should be extra consultation on the Corporate Plan and that this should be an on-going process.

Councillor Stephenson, Chair of Scrutiny Committee, pointed out that the delay would have an impact on the Scrutiny Committee's work programme

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### 3. THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007

Councillor Blakeway, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Development, introduced the report and together with the Head of Community Services answered questions. It was important that 'grass roots' proposals were followed up and this could be carried out by the Council's Community Engagement Team.

The Chair said that there appeared to be an omission in legislation relating to 'power of care' for older people and that the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 provided a good route to address this.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) consider and approve the proposal for a “power of care” for older people;
- (2) delegate authority to officers to submit this proposal to the Local Government Association by the 31 July 2009 deadline.

#### **4. DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME**

The Director of Transformation presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Disability Equality Scheme for publication.

#### **5. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Director of Transformation presented the report, and together with the Chief Executive Officer, answered questions.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that the Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 6 July 2009, had resolved to ask that details of the proposed efficiency savings were referred to the Scrutiny Committee before consideration by the Executive.

Discussion ensued. Consideration was given to the need for extra meetings of both the Scrutiny Committee and the Executive, but members of the Executive expressed concern that pre-scrutiny of proposals could result in the delay of implementation of cost savings measures.

Councillor Lubbock asked why easy and moderate efficiency savings to the sum of £5 million had not been made before. Councillor Waters said that this was the result of identification of opportunities for efficiency savings arising from the re-letting of the CityCare contract and the breakpoint and benchmarking provisions within the Steria contract. The use of consultants who were experienced and could expedite savings was a sound investment for the Council. Members were advised how officers were informed and engaged in the process and that their ideas were being fed back to the Transformation team.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AND CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY BOARDS**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services introduced the report and referred to the resolution of the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2009, requesting that a representative of the Scrutiny Committee served on both of the Housing Improvement and Corporate Improvement and Efficiency Boards.

Councillor Little, Chair of the Audit Committee, addressed the Executive and outlined the committee's concerns that in the interests of openness and transparency there should be a non-Executive member of the Council on the Boards. He also referred to the parallel request from the Scrutiny Committee for a representative on the Boards. Councillor Stephenson said that her view was that Scrutiny Committee members should not be on the Board because of a conflict in interests but suggested that an observer should attend.

Discussion ensued in which the Chair and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the Boards were advisory bodies to the Executive. Any decisions would be made by the Executive or recommended to Council, as appropriate, and could be subject to the Council's call-in arrangements. Councillor Waters said that the Executive needed the latitude to conduct the work and formulate ideas with different groups before proposals were brought forward.

Councillor Blakeway pointed out that members of the Council could discuss issues with individual portfolio holders.

**RESOLVED**, having considered the requests of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees, not to appoint:-

- (a) a non-Executive member from one of the minority parties who is not a member of the Scrutiny Committee; and,
- (b) a representative of the Scrutiny Committee;

to either the Housing Improvement or the Corporate Improvement Efficiency Boards.

(Councillor Brociek-Coulton left the meeting during the following item.)

## **7. JENNY LIND AND EAGLE WALK PARKS**

The Head of Community Services presented the report. In response to a question regarding consideration of facilities for disabled children, the Children and Young People Officer explained the arrangements for play provision for disabled children. A briefing note could be circulated to councillors.

The Chair reported that Councillor Sands, Executive Member for Children and Young People, considered that the proposals were 'wonderful' and requested that her compliments were passed on to the officers on a 'good piece of work'. The Chief Executive said that the consultation was a good example of community engagement.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) approve the vision plan for Jenny Lind Park;
- (2) approve £247,019 discretionary S106 expenditure provision;
- (3) delegate to the Capital Programmes Board the approval of detailed proposals in the form of Project Mandates when requirements have been fully worked up for the two sites;

- (4) note that this sum is in addition to £160,507 of discretionary S.106 expenditure previously approved for Jenny Lind Park & Eagle Walk by the Executive on the 21 March 2007.

## **8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Items 9-11 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## **\*9. OPTIONS FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN NORWICH (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Principal Planner (Transport) presented the report.

Councillor Lubbock suggested that the Council should be providing similar funding for a cycle hire scheme.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) agree to allocate up to a maximum of £30,888 of existing S106 funds collected from City developments for the purpose of providing sustainable transport initiatives to support the most sustainable option for the continuation of a car club scheme in the city;
- (2) delegate to the Head of Transportation and Landscape, in consultation with the Executive member for Sustainable City Development, the assessment and award of the tender if the business case is robust.

## **\*10. STRATEGIC WORKING TO DELIVER BENEFITS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITIES NEXT STEPS LEGAL AGREEMENT (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The City Growth and Development Manager presented the report and together with the Chief Executive answered questions and said that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) had raised three further points for consideration when negotiating the legal agreement as follows: future opportunities for estate renewal; the appointment of a joint project director; and the partnership approach concerning future sites that the City Council might own.

Discussion ensued. Executive members supported the proposals. Members noted that the Council's Decommissioning Policy would apply. Councillor Lubbock raised concerns about the partnership arrangements which she considered added an additional level of bureaucracy and that there was no guarantee of funding after 2011. Councillor Stephenson said that further information was required on the HCA's proposals for estate renewal.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) adopt the business plan outline/partnership principles for the collaboration and investment agreement (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report);

- (2) delegates final approval for the Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to the Director of Regeneration and Development.

**\*11. IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL JOB EVALUATION SCHEME AND A NEW PAY SYSTEM (PARAGRAPH 4)**

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer presented the report and clarified the position of UNISON with regard to pay protection. An email from UNISON head quarters was circulated to members.

The UNISON Branch Secretary referred to the misconception of UNISON's position on pay protection but considered that this should not prevent the proposal from being submitted to UNISON for formal consultation.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) approve the new pay system set out in Appendix A;
- (2) agree that the Norwich City Council submits its Single Status proposal to UNISON for formal consideration.

CHAIR